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22 April 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Comment by Leatherman that FDD Had Not
Responded to an OCPW Request Two and one-half
Years Ago

1. During discussions between CIA, R & D and OCPW in the Pentagon on the War Documents project, Dr. Leatherman commented in a rather "light" fashion that two and one-half years ago OCPW had been asked for its requirements on FDD and had responded but had not heard anything since. I suggested to Leatherman that if he would care to add a degree of precision to this comment I was sure that Mr. Bagnall, who was present, would be anxious to follow up and see what had happened. Leatherman said that he didn't think it was important but just offered the comment in "passing". In the context of the meeting on the War Documents project I did not feel like pressing the point, although it was made in connection with a discussion concerning FDD handling OCPW War Documents project requirements. However, I called Bagnall after returning to CIA and asked him if he could check his files, if this could be done simply. He called back and advised me that in September 1952 OCPW had requested, through G-2, that FDD prepare certain material covering the radio music programs in 28 countries from 1 March to 21 August of that year. Bagnall advised me further that FDD provided two volumes, in response, totalling 594 pages; the first volume was dispatched on 17 October and the second on 19 November. The volumes were sent at OCPW's request, through G-2, to DeGrazia in HumRRo, post office box 3096. I called Leatherman to advise him of our record of the disposition of the OCPW request on FDD approximately two and one-half years ago. Leatherman said that he knew of the FDD project but that when he made his comment he had something else in mind which involved FBID. I advised Leatherman that for OCPW's benefit and ours I would see if this one couldn't be run down.

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2. I called [] and found him to be away until the latter part of next month. I then talked with [] who thought he recalled the OCPW request but that he would have to check with [] FBID, who would be more familiar with it. [] called me the next day to advise that in 1951 an FBID task force under [] canvassed FBID customers to obtain guidance as to the needs of those customers. Among those canvassed was OCPW which submitted their requirements to FBID. These requirements, according to [] were guide-type requirements and did not require, in FBID's opinion, a specific response; but, rather that the production of FBID would more nearly meet the needs of the customers as a result of the task force effort. [] did say that FBID in the OCPW case could have made this point more clear to OCPW but that unfortunately no further specific action was taken to clear the situation between OCPW and FBID. [] said that, in early 1954, he was assigned to military duty in OCPW at which time he revived the OCPW requirements on FBID and drafted a letter for dispatch to CIA which would provide for a procedure which might be of benefit to OCPW and of help to FBID in understanding OCPW needs. This letter was sent to CIA on 17 May 1954. When [] ended his military duty with OCPW and returned to his post in FBID, he prepared the answering letter which was signed by the DCI on 5 June 1954 and sent to OCPW. The CIA reply indicated that CIA was ready to establish direct liaison between CIA and OCPW and to discuss further any specific needs of OCPW. (I have not obtained these two memoranda for my own examination). According to [] there has been no further correspondence from OCPW and that, in [] opinion, it is up to OCPW to respond to this invitation to discuss their needs with FBID. The sum of this would indicate that OCPW has the ball, not FBID.

3. I called Leatherman and advised him of 1954 correspondence and suggested that he may wish to get it out and examine it and decide if OCPW cared to respond to FBID's invitation. Leatherman indicated that he was not aware of the correspondence and that probably the OCPW person who spoke to him was not aware of it either. He added, as "lightly" as the original comment was made, that perhaps he was off base if, in fact, it was OCPW's turn to move the checker and not FBID.

PCS/DCI:WRL:pas (26 April 1955)

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